

STAFF REPORT
Meeting Date: May 19, 2004

Agenda Item 12

TO: LAFCO Commissioners

FROM: Everett Millais, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Sphere of Influence Updates – No Update Necessary
Camrosa Water District

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the sphere of influence for the Camrosa Water District, determine that no sphere of influence update is necessary, and receive and file this report.

DISCUSSION:

For each city and special district LAFCO must determine and adopt a sphere of influence and, "...review and update, as necessary, the adopted sphere not less than once every five years." (CA Government Code §56430(f)). In order to prepare and update spheres of influence LAFCO must conduct municipal service reviews. During 2003 the Commission conducted water and wastewater service reviews for the 36 agencies (cities and special districts) in the County that provide some form of water and/or wastewater services.

The Camrosa Water District is an independent special district that provides potable water, water reclamation/distribution, wastewater collection and treatment and power generation services. The District's service area encompasses approximately 31 square miles and includes the Terra Rejada and Santa Rosa Valleys, the eastern portion of the City of Camarillo and the California State University, Channel Islands, (CSUCI) campus. While the District retails and distributes potable water throughout its service area, its wastewater collection system is primarily north of US 101.

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The sphere of influence for the Camrosa Water District is coterminous with the District's boundary. Both the District boundary and sphere overlap with the easterly portion of the spheres of influence and boundaries of the City of Camarillo and the Camarillo Sanitary District. Even though prior LAFCO studies of special districts contained comments about service options for the Camrosa Water District, including the possibility of the District providing water service to the entire City of Camarillo or the City, Camarillo Sanitary District and Camrosa combining services, last years municipal service review report noted that there are both physical and political disadvantages to pursuing any formal reorganization. Even though the spheres of influence and boundaries overlap, there is no duplication of services (e.g. there are not water or wastewater lines of different agencies serving the same areas). Also, Camrosa, the City of Camarillo and the Camarillo Sanitary District are cooperating whenever feasible to improve reliability and affordability of services.

The municipal service review for Camrosa Water District identified a "special study area" for sphere of influence update purposes due to facilities/services outside the District boundary. This special study area was identified for the area between the majority of the District and the portion of the District around CSUCI. Follow-up review with the District indicated that the District does provide some limited agricultural water connections outside the District and sphere boundaries and at least one domestic, potable water connection in this area. The District does not want to have its sphere of influence updated to include these areas at this time, however, due to concerns about possible growth inducement. City of Camarillo and LAFCO staff concurs.

Based on the water and wastewater service review report and the follow-up reviews with the District and adjoining agencies, it is recommended that the Commission review the sphere of influence for the Camrosa Water District and determine that no update is necessary. The effect of this recommendation is that the existing sphere of influence will remain the same. Because there would be no changes, the review action by the Commission to receive and file this report is not considered a project subject to CEQA.

This matter has been noticed as a public hearing in compliance with the law and the Camrosa Water District has been notified. As of the preparation of this report, no objections to the recommendations have been received.

Attachment:

Camrosa Sphere of Influence map

